

## **AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

### **Listing of Claims:**

1. (Currently Amended) A computerized method for synchronizing a supplier's production with a manufacturer's production comprising the steps of:
  - establishing at a manufacturer's computer a production schedule for said manufacturer's production;
  - determining at said manufacturer's computer a production delivery time of day needed to receive for receiving supplies from a supplier, said production delivery time needed to receive supplies determined by said manufacturer according to when said manufacturer requires said supplies on a production line to meet said manufacturer's production schedule;
  - determining at said manufacturer's computer a lead time for receiving said supplies from said supplier and delivering said supplies to a production line location;
  - transmitting during production from said manufacturer's computer to a supplier's computer ~~a an~~ electronic supply order to said supplier in accordance with said lead time needed to receive supplies, said electronic supply order comprising ~~a said~~ production delivery time and said production line location according to said production schedule for said manufacturer's current production;

starting in response to receipt of said electronic supply order said supplier's production to produce supplies in accordance with said production delivery time according to said production schedule for said manufacturer's production;

labeling said supplies at said supplier's facility with said production delivery time and said production line location;

receiving said supplies from said supplier in accordance with said production delivery time according to said production schedule for said manufacturer's production;

moving said supplies to said ~~manufacturer's~~ production line location according to said production delivery time and said production line location indicated on a label for said supplies;

~~starting~~ continuing production at said ~~manufacturer's~~ production line in accordance with said manufacturer's production schedule; and

consuming said supplies in accordance with said production schedule established for said manufacturer's production.

2. (Currently Amended) The computerized method of claim 1 wherein the step of determining a lead time ~~needed to receive~~ for receiving supplies from a supplier comprises the steps of:

determining a time required by said supplier to produce supplies;

determining a time required by said supplier to transport said supplies to said manufacturer;

determining a time required by said manufacturer to unload said supplies;  
determining a time required by said manufacturer to said stage supplies;  
determining a time required by said manufacturer to move said supplies to  
a location on said manufacturer's production line; and

determining a total time by adding said time required by said supplier to  
produce supplies, said time required by said supplier to transport said supplies to  
said manufacturer, said time required by said manufacturer to unload said  
supplies, said time required by said manufacturer to stage said supplies, and said  
time required by said manufacturer to move said supplies to a location on said  
manufacturer's production line.

3. (Currently Amended) The computerized method of claim 2 further comprising the  
step of adding time to said total time to account for delays in each activity.
4. (Currently Amended) The computer method of claim 1 wherein the step of  
transmitting ~~a~~ an electronic supply order from said manufacturer's computer to  
~~said suppliers~~ supplier's computer comprises the step ~~steps~~ of:  
transmitting a production sequence comprising details regarding products to be  
produced on said production line;  
~~transmitting said production delivery time; and~~  
~~transmitting a production line location.~~
5. (Currently Amended) The computerized method of claim 4 wherein the step of  
transmitting a production sequence to said supplier comprises the step of

transmitting details about a model, type, options, and color for an automobile.

6. (Currently Amended) The computerized method of claim 1 wherein the step of transmitting ~~a~~an electronic supply order to said ~~supplier~~supplier's computer comprises the step of transmitting ~~a~~an electronic supply order to said ~~supplier~~supplier's computer in accordance with TCP/IP.
7. (Currently Amended) The computerized method of claim 1 wherein the step of transmitting ~~a~~an electronic supply order to said ~~supplier~~supplier's computer comprises the step of transmitting ~~a~~an electronic supply order to said ~~supplier~~supplier's computer in accordance with XML.
8. (Currently Amended) The computerized method of claim 1 wherein the step of transmitting ~~a~~an electronic supply order to said ~~supplier~~supplier's computer comprises the step of requesting a capacity confirmation from said supplier prior to transmitting ~~a~~an electronic supply order.
9. (Currently Amended) A computerized system for synchronizing a supplier's production with a manufacturer's production comprising:
  - a manufacturer's production line;
  - ~~a~~an electronic production schedule for said manufacturer's production line;
  - a manufacturer computer adapted to transmit supply orders to a supplier computer based on ~~the~~a current production status at said manufacturer's production line, said supply orders transmitted to said supplier according to a lead time that accounts for an amount of time to receive said supplies and an amount

of time to move said supplies to a production line location ~~when the production status indicates supplies are needed to meet said production schedule;~~

a supplier computer adapted to receive electronic supply orders from a said manufacturer computer, said electronic supply orders comprising production delivery times indicating when said manufacturer requires said supplies on a production line to meet said manufacturer's ~~in accordance with said production schedule for said manufacturer's production line~~ and production line locations indicating where said supplies are to be moved on said production line;

a supplier production line for producing supplies in accordance with a production delivery time in a supply order from said manufacturer computer, said production delivery time in accordance with a time said supplies are required on said production line to meet said production schedule for said manufacturer's production line and a production line location; ~~and~~

a label produced by said supplier for said supplies, said label comprising said production delivery time and said production line location;

a ~~production line~~ location at said manufacturer's production line identified by said production line location for receiving said supplies according to said production delivery time and holding said supplies produced by said supplier, wherein said supplies are consumed in accordance with said production schedule for said manufacturer's production line.

10. (Canceled)

11. (Canceled)
12. (Currently Amended) The computerized system of claim 9 wherein said electronic supply order comprises a production sequence.
13. (Currently Amended) The computerized system of claim 12 wherein said production sequence comprises a model, a type, a plurality of options, and a color for an automobile.
14. (Currently Amended) The computerized system of claim 9 wherein said manufacturer computer and said supplier computer are adapted for communication in accordance with TCP/IP.
15. (Currently Amended) The computerized system of claim 9 wherein said manufacturer computer and said supplier computer are adapted for communication in accordance with XML standards.
16. (Currently Amended) The computerized system of claim 9 further comprising a capacity confirmation received from said supplier computer.
17. (Currently Amended) A computerized method for synchronizing a supplier's production with a manufacturer's production comprising the steps of:
  - establishing ~~a~~ an electronic production schedule for said manufacturer's production;
  - transmitting from a manufacturer's computer to a supplier-supplier's computer during a production process an electronic supply order comprising a production sequence, a production delivery time, and a production line location at

said manufacturer in accordance with said production schedule for said manufacturer's production;

starting in response to receipt of said electronic supply order said supplier's production in accordance with said production delivery time ~~in accordance with said production schedule for said manufacturer's production;~~

producing at said supplier's facility a label for said supplies with said production delivery time and said production line location;

receiving supplies from said supplier in accordance with said production delivery time in said supply order, ~~said production delivery time in accordance with said production schedule for said manufacturer's production;~~

moving said supplies to said production line location according to said production line location and said production delivery time indicated in said label for said supplies; and

consuming said supplies at said production line location in accordance with said production schedule for said manufacturer's production.

18. (Currently Amended) The computerized method of claim 17 wherein said electronic production sequence comprises the step of transmitting details about a model, a type, a plurality of options, and a color for an automobile.
19. (Currently Amended) The computerized method of claim 17 wherein the step of starting said supplier's production in accordance with said production delivery time comprises the step of starting said supplier's production to meet said production

delivery time of said production schedule for said manufacturer's production.

20. (Currently Amended) The computerized method of claim 17 wherein said production delivery time is based on a time required by said supplier to produce supplies, a time required by said supplier to transport said supplies to said manufacturer, a time required by said manufacturer to unload said supplies, a time required by said manufacturer to said stage supplies, and a time required by said manufacturer to move said supplies to said production line location.
21. (Currently Amended) The computerized method of claim 17 wherein the step of transmitting a supply order to said ~~supplier~~ supplier's computer comprises the step of transmitting ~~a~~ an electronic supply order to said ~~supplier~~ supplier's computer in accordance with TCP/IP.
22. (Currently Amended) The computerized method of claim 17 wherein the step of transmitting a supply order to said ~~supplier~~ supplier's computer comprises the step of transmitting ~~a~~ an electronic supply order to said ~~supplier~~ supplier's computer in accordance with XML.
23. (Currently Amended) The computerized method of claim 17 wherein the step of transmitting ~~a~~ an electronic supply order to said ~~supplier~~ supplier's computer comprises the step of requesting a capacity confirmation from said supplier.